

who saw, as its outcome, "the whole country becoming eventually municipalised/' than by Tom Taylor "A popular dramatist turned bureaucrat" (he was secretary to the Central Board of Health)

"grappling with the Eaily Victorian stupidities of local officials, and the prejudices of the average sensual man, could hardly be expected to take an optimistic view of Local Government?"

The Act, in truth, produced a "sweeping revolution, little noticed at the time " Local Government was, by it, cut off from vocational organisation, with its industrial, political and religious exclusiveness, and its ruinous view that "the direction of any service should be vested in those who performed it " and vested in elected bodies, so that the consumers of public services, who paid for them out of local taxes, were given the right to control those services through their representatives Many evils remained System was not yet to be Democracy was woefully incomplete, so long as the property qualification was retained intact But

With the one significant exception of the red thread of property qualification running through all forms of authority, which was retained intact, and, in some ways, even strengthened by the Reformed House of Commons, the barriers which had divided the English people into mutually exclusive groups were, in 1834-1836, so far as Local Government was concerned, almost wholly broken down In the government of his parish, his Poor Law Union, and his Borough, the undifferentiated citizen-consumer, electing whatever representative he chose, became, in effect, supreme The vocational qualification,

once the very basis of
Manor and Borough, finds no place in the
reorganised municipality. Less complete, but scarcely less
significant, was the tacit
abandonment of the barrier of sex "

On this they do not dwell, although it would be
highly
interesting to have them do so. He, of course,
was, from
the very first, a complete equalitarian, so far
as women
were concerned, her conversion was recent,
but it was